



Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team

What is it?

The Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team (BDTRT) is one of several take reduction teams (TRTs) established by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to help develop plans to mitigate serious injuries and mortalities of western North Atlantic coastal bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) incidental to commercial fishing operations. TRTs were established as advisory teams under Section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

The BDTRT is composed of over forty members, including fishermen, scientists, conservationists, and state and federal officials from New York to Florida. From November 2001 through April 2002, the BDTRT participated in a multi-party consensus negotiation process. As Team members, the stakeholders were charged with the task of developing a consensus-based draft take reduction plan to reduce the bottlenose dolphin mortality and serious injuries to less than the potential biological removal level within six months of plan implementation.

Though NMFS provided the Team with the best available scientific information at the time of the Team's convening, NMFS continues to conduct research to further refine what we know about bottlenose dolphins and commercial fisheries. NMFS will provide this information to the Team as the Team continues to convene.

Questions? Contact Katie Moore,
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